G. R. S. 507

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

1908-09
(Nuzvid)

File No. 309 8

Serial Nos. 1

Papers Filed.

Month February 1909.

SUBJECT. Complaint re the Affairs of the Sri Vyasaraya Swami Matt at Sosale

PREVIOUS REFERENCES

LATER REFERENCES

GPB—1,000—16 6 08

G.R.S.11] 1909.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

(Miscellaneous)

NOTES.

File No. 207-08

FILL HEADING.

Complaint regarding the action taken by Govt in reference to the affairs of the Sri Vyasarayaswami Mattu and Sowcarpet of the Sri Kundapur or Adbur Vyasaraya Matt in the Chingleput District

From

The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor

D.O. No. 92, Dated 20 / 09 Received

Diary No. 624	Enclos. / Return Spare Copies	Serial No.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards memorial received from Ponnusamy Iyer and others of Madras and requests that it may be examined and a clear statement of the case put up for the information of H.E. the Governor

NOTES AND ORDERS.

This is a petition [illegible] trustees of the Sri Vyasaraya Swami Mattam [illegible] Adbur [illegible] Sri Vyasaraya Swami [illegible] Dewan [illegible] of Sowcarpet.

2. After a careful perusal of the petition I find that it relates to three [illegible]:-

(1) [illegible]

Notes—first sheet

GPB—30,000—3.4.07

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stylin[illegible] Sri Vyasa[illegible], every

(ii) That the Government Agent appointed to look after the Vyasaro[illegible] properties in British India is not contested (para 10)

(iii) that the Adhikaris [illegible] Anirudha Vasijar received [illegible] with the benediction of the said Sri [illegible] Guru.

(Para 11 E & F)

3. I shall take up first [illegible]. The Government Agent, I find, is a [illegible] man who has thoroughly ascertained [illegible] matters concerning the [illegible] working well; and it is only [illegible] place that make all sorts of [illegible].

4. As regards the third point I am informed that Government had no notice of Arimaddi Vijayi's nomination, (that the Memorial [illegible] this individual had sent a Reminder notice to this Department) and they approved of the succession of another as recommended by the ordaining Guru.

5. The important point is the alleged unauthorized assumption of the name of Sri Vyasaroyaswamy by the Swamy of the Abbur or Kundapur Matt. So far as this Province is concerned the name is not a matter of much consequence. Everybody knows that the proper Vyasaroyaswamy Matt is the one at Sosale, now presided over by Srimad Vidya Sri Ratnavarathirtha Sreepadangalavaru; and there is no chance of the Abbur Swamy appropriating any of the properties now belonging to the Sri Vyasaroyaswami Matt at Sosale. It is however said that the similiarity of names has helped the Abbur Swamy to obtain in the Kundapur Taluk of the

Contn. sheet.

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Madras Presidency the tasdil [illegible] lands to which the Sosale Vyasaroyaswamy [illegible] entitled.

6. In this connection it is [illegible] to the previous correspondence [illegible] as in the Memorial Mr. Anantasami Pao [illegible] been criticised. The suit in [illegible] were filed and disposed of [illegible] assumed the management of the Sri [illegible] Matt in 1903. When in 1904 [illegible] in the Kundapur Taluk [illegible], a report was called for from [illegible] er Shimoga. He reported that Sri La[illegible] Swamigalu was the real owner of the [illegible] royaswamy Matt and had been "[illegible] for the recovery of mesne profits [illegible] lands endowed to the said Matt in [illegible] District". The petition was accordingly [illegible]. When in 1906, the Vyasaroya [illegible] Bangalore complained they were informed [illegible] unnecessary to go into the question which had not been raised by the Matt. Subsequently the Sosale Vyasaroyaswamy Matt having moved in the matter a report was called for from the Government Agent and the Madura Memorialists were in June 190[illegible] informed that the matter was under investigation. This fact was submitted for His Highness's information in Mr. Anantasami Pao's note dated 24th June 1908.

7. I shall now refer to the action taken subsequently. The papers were sent to the Govt. Advocate for opinion. He has called for inform-

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General and Revenue
Secretariat.

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on the following points:—

(1) Whether the Inam Register of the Sri Vyasarayaswamy Mutt [illegible] between 1811 & 1865; if not, where such Register were they all [illegible]

(2) Whether or not the [illegible] first or third Trustee, the Amildar [illegible] the first grant [illegible] village transferred by the A[illegible].

(3) Whether the Amildar [illegible] the Abbur Vyasarayaswamy [illegible].

8. The Inam Superintendent [illegible] send the records of enquiry relating [illegible] of Abbur and Sambhonahalli [illegible] to the Abbur Vyasarayaswami Mutt.

From the papers received from the Vernacular records of the Secretariat, [illegible] the Abbur or Kundapur Swamy [illegible] itself Kundapur Vyasarayaswamy since [illegible].

The Mutt Karbhari has been directed to proceed at once to Kundapur and secure [illegible] that may be of value.

A clear statement of the case [illegible] called for by the Private Secretary, to H. H. the Maharaj

Submitted to this Durbar through the Second Councillor

Amkhi Lakshmi 28/10/09

This is an ad interim report

N 942
30.10.09

29/1/09

sheet.

GPB—50 000—18-5-08

Submitted to His Highness.

As called for in Mr. Macnoch...'s D.O. letter No.92 dated 20th January 1909, I submit herewith for His Highness' information a note put up by the Muzrai Superintendent on the subject of the petition of Pannai Samy Aiyer and others of Madura regarding affairs of the Vyasarayaswami and Abbur Mutts.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

Subject.

Note by the Muzrai Superintendent on the subject of the petition of Pannai Sany Aiyar and others of Madura regarding affairs of the Sri Vyasarayaswami and Abbur Matts.

Order.

seen

G.R.S. 13]

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

D634 Dy. No. 1224

Bangalore

20.1.9

PRIVATE SECRETARY MYSORE

Dear Sir. Madhava Rao

with reference to the enclosed petition His Highness will be glad if the Inspn Dept. will examine the petition and put up a draft reply for the orders of the ...

N. B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

GPB—45,000—19-5 08

TO

H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE BANGALORE.

May it please your Gracious Highness'—

While thanking your Highness for the prompt action taken on the memorials from Madura, dated 13—4—08 and 6—6—08, we feel bound to state that the endorsement, No. 5642, dated 17—6—08 and sent in reply to the first memorial, dated 13—4—08, by the secretary of the Muzrai Department has not solved the difficulty and has not rendered the case clear.

II. While in the endorsement granted to petitioners of Bangalore No. 932, dated 9—8—06, the same secretary (Mr L Anantasami Row) has said "that Government consider it unnecessary to go into this question which has not been raised by the mutts concerned" he has now seen fit to recognise the responsibility of your Highness' Government as would appear from his admission contained in the endorsement reference. "The question * * * * * is a matter for investigation." If your Highness' Government would not move in the matter, who else, we ask, is competent to deal with the question in all its bearings and aspects and come to a definite conclusion for the elucidation of the public at large?

III. Although in the endorsement under reference only the first memorial, under date 13—4—08, is referred to, yet we have reasons to think that the Secretary's attention must have been drawn to the matter on receipt of the second memorial, which was addressed to your Highness as a reminder to the first on 6—6—08. Since the endorsement itself was obviously passed subsequent to the receipt of the second memorial, it would have been well and good had it been chosen to furnish information also on the points raised therein.

IV. Curiously enough, the same secretary has said in the endorsement granted to petitioners of South Canara in the year 1904 that "as the matter has been already disposed of, the Government cannot interfere."

V. All these three endorsements read together show beyond doubt that the secretary has not grasped the exact situation of affairs,

but has been acting under a gross misapprehension of facts, and he cannot therefore be expected to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the question. Moreover, if our information be correct, he is shortly to lay down the reins of his office.

VI. The facts of the case are, as far as can be gathered, briefly these:—

On complaints having been made to your Highness about the mismanagement of the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl. mutt, your Highness' Government took up the management under its control on the 1st July 1903, since which date the mutt has been under the direct management of your Highness' Government. This mutt, we take, is the identical one which is described in the endorsement under reference as "the proper and well known Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl mutt at Sosale, which is now presided over by Srimad Vidya Sri Ratnakara Thirtha Sri Swamigalu."

VII. When the mutt was being mismanaged and before your Highness' Government took it up under its management, one Lakshmi Pria Theertha Swamigalu, who was connected with the Kundapur mutt, Chennapatna Taluq, otherwise called Abbur mutt (which is popularly believed to be but a branch of the parent mutt brought into existence by Sri Brahmaniatheertha Sri Swamigalu, who preceded the Sri Vyasaraja Swamigalu) took undue advantage and made improper use of the similarity in names of the mutt at Sosale and of the other mutt (also a branch of the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl. mutt) at Vadayarahoballi Village, Coondapur Taluq, South Canara District, and established himself by means fair and foul as the proper and duly constituted representative of the original Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl mutt. To accomplish this end, he first obtained a Decree in the Munsiff's Court of Coondapur in a declaratary suit for getting the Thastik allowance withheld by the British Government and as has been already brought to your Highness' notice in the memorial, dated 25-10-99 and 15—6—01, he had also to file a suit in the Subordinate Court of Mangalore for recovering possession of the mutt's lands from Subbaraya Karanthar and others. The latter decision was on appeal up-held and affirmed by the High Court. Similarly he proceeded to North Canara and took possession of the mutt's properties there by a similar legal course in the Bombay Presidency. In all these proceedings it must be borne in mind neither the mutt nor your Highness' Government contested his claim, and

greatly encouraged as he was by the disgraceful mismanagement into which the mutt had then fallen and by the similarity in the names of Kundapur mutt in the Mysore Province and of the branch mutt in South Canara District, he was left to establish his claim and title uncontested.

VIII. Our great surprise and concern know no bounds at seeing that in the endowment under reference your Highness' Government has admitted that "there is another mutt called the Abbur Vyasaraja Swami mutt with Headquarters at Abbur in Chennapatna Taluk, which is presided over by Sri Lakshmipriya Theertha Swamigalu" and we do not know how many more such Swamigalus will spring up in conrse of time to be thus recognised by your highness' Government.

IX. It cannot be denied that your Highness' Government is primarily responsible for this state of things, and but for its culpable indifference and apathy, it would not have been possible for the new mutts and new Swamigalus to be organised in the manner done. If according to the endorsement there are two Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl. mutts (the one at Sosale under your Highness' management and the other at Abbur) we respectfully beg to be informed when and in what manner a division of the properties was made. We are also tempted to ask "Will your Highness' Government be prepared at any time to hand over the management of the mutt vested in your Highness' hands to the Head of the other mutt, if he chooses to apply for it?

X. To any observer it would appear that your Highness Government that took up under its control the management of the mutt with the obstensible object of bettering the condition of the mutt has been guilty of mismanagement in that it has suffered new Swamigalus to spring up in existence and in that it has not made adequate arrangements for the due and punctual realization of the mutt's dues. The person now appointed agent by your Highness Govrenment is neither a disciple of the mutt nor one experienced in the Tamil-knowing districts but is one of the Secretary's proteges whom the Secretary perhaps feels bound to support in and out of season.

XI. It would appear necessary to refer here to one or two incidents connected with the mutt:—

(a) When in the old days Sri Lakshmi Vallabha Theertha Sri Swamigalu had occupied the pedestal of Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl

and proceeded to Benares on pilgrimage after having duly appointed Sri Lakshminatha Theertha Sri Swamigalu to manage the concerns of the mutt during his absence and after having handed over to his custody the jewels and idols except (1) Sri Vyasamuni Varadah Gopala Krishnan and his consorts Rukmani Sathiabhama and (2) Brahmania Vittale Devaru, which he took with him, he wished the Court of the then reighning Emperor, Akbar Batcha, and after having received from him all due honors returned to Balur in Hasanam District, Mysore province, where he departed this life. The news of his sudden death not having reached Sri Lakshmi Natha Theertha Sri Swamigalu, who had his head quarters then at Srirangum owing to the absence then of the present day facilities of communication, (telegraphic or otherwise) a Sanyasi who was connected with the Kundapur mutt in the Mysore province otherwise called Abbur or Brahmaniatheertha Swamigalu mutt and from whom Sri Lakshmipria Theertha Swamigalu above mentioned claims to have decended, ran up to Balur and took forcible and unlawful possession of the two idols left by Sri Lakshmi Vallabhatheertha Sri Swamigalu, the deceased. Later on, Lakshminatha Theertha Sri Swamigalu came to know the death of his Guru and finding that the idols had been stealthily carried away by a stranger, instituted legal proceedings against the culprit for the recovery of the idols in question Thereupon, the Sanyasi, who carried away the idols, went to the then Dewan, Sir Poorniah, who promised him protection and immunity from the legal process on condition of the Sanyasi prostrating himself at the feet of the Head of the Ootharadhi mutt (Sir Poorniah himself being a disciple of the mutt) and abiding by such terms and conditions as might be imposed by the said Head of the Ootharadhi mutt. The effect of such compromise was that the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl. mutt as represented by the said Sanyasi was made subordinate to the Ootharadhi mutt and was styled and recognised by your Highness' Government as Kundapur mutt, or Abbur mutt, while that represented by Sri Lakshminatha Theertha Sri Swamigalu was recognised and proclaimed as the proper Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avergal mutt. All these facts will, it is hoped, clearly appear from the Government records and from Sir Poorniah's family records.

(b) One of the privileges granted by your Highness' worthy predecessors to, and enjoyed by, the Sringeri and Vyasaraja Swamiar Avergal mutts from time out of mind is, as your Highness is aware, to have torch-light during the day procession. While so, your Highness'

illustrious grand-father, the late Krishnaraja Oodayar Avergal Bahadur of imperishable fame was pleased to extend this privilege to another mutt, Raghavendra Swamigalu mutt at Nanjangood. Thereupon many complications and serious disturbances arose, as a result whereof the then head of the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avl mutt Srimad Vidhyakanthatheertha Sri Swamigalu left for good the Mysore province and removed his head quarters to Bhavani in the British Territory, the mutt's lands, villages, properties and other incomes having been left to be confiscated to the Government. He was actuated to take this step in consequence of the hostile attitude of the then Maha Rajah and he so remined in Bhavani for a period of twelve long years without casting even a glance at the Mysore province altogether Subsequently however, the Maha Rajah sincerely repented of his folly and invited the Swamigalu to resume his seat in his dominions and endowed to the mutt as a palliation of his sin the two villages of Sarthanahalli and Halukurike besides making a present of a valuable ornament (Vyjanthimala) and issued orders for the usual contributions being resumed and for the lands and villages being released from attachment The Swamigalu having thus been in a manner pacified and counting upon the continued support of your Highness' Government decided to remove his Head quarters to Sosale, T Narsipur Taluq, Mysore District, but in so doing failed to see if all the mutt's properties had been restored to him intact with the inevitable result that a few of the mutt s villages passed out of the mutt's possession and enjoyment and were claimed and appropriated by the representatives of the Abbur or Kundapur mutt (the predecessors of Sri Lakshmipriatheertha Swamigalu). Oddly enough, while in the accounts & records of your Highness' Govt. this mutt is referred to as Abbur or Kundapur mutt, the presiding heads thereof made it a point to assume the title of the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avergal and to style themselves as such in their routine correspondence, which gave rise to all the confusion and misapprehension at present existing. Further, this state of affairs gave room to Sri Lakshmipriatheertha Swamigalu to proceed to South Canara and to North Canara and enabled him to get possession of the mutt's properties as set-forth at some length in para 7 supra.

(c) The mutt had to contract heavy debts in having had to maintain itself and paraphernalia for a period of twelve years independant of any help from your Highness' Government as above stated, and the late Sri Vidhya Sri Srinivasatheertha Sri Swamigalu in his anxiety to improve the condition of the mutt strove hard to find the ways and

means wherewith to discharge the heavy debts contracted by the mutt without looking at the root of all evil—the mismanagement into which the mutt's concerns had fallen as detailed above and at last had in the year 1889–1890 a personal conference with your Highness' illustrious father, the late lamented Bahadur Chamaraja Oodayar Avergal of happy memory on the subject, and the Maha Rajah gave his full and unreserved consent to pay up the mutt's debts from the Samasthanam resources, assume direct Control and Management of the mutt and to adopt such other measures as were conducive to the best interests of of the mutt The Swamigalu having died in the meanwhile, this arrangement fell through, and Sri Vidhya Samudratheertha Sri Swamigalu who succeeded him, was so indifferent to the mutt's interests and so badly mismanaged its multifarious concerns in spite of wholesome and valuable advice proffered to him that numberless complaints were made against him with the result that your Highness' Government on due solicitation by us decided to assume direct management of the mutt. It will not be out of place here to mention that on a complaint made to your Highness' Government against the Swamigalu in the year 1892 of the discontinuance of feeding and other charities in the mutt and of non-payment of annuities, pensions and wages to mutt's servants, it passed an endorsement to the effect that the several matters complained of would receive due attention of the Doddah Para pathiyam (Periapar ıpathiyam or Agent) of the mutt, who was competent to dispose of them as he thought fit, Vide No $\frac{81}{30-6-92}$ of the Muzrai Department. It is also a significant fact that the Agent himself took no less prominent part along with the kariastars, servants and disciples of the mutt in the agitation got upto hand over the management of the mutt to your Highness' Government. It need hardly be pointed out that the responsible officer of your Highness' Government charged with the duty of giving endorsements on petitions addressed to your Highness must certainly be one fully conversant with all these facts and not of the stamp of Mr. L Anantasami Row, who as stated in para V supra is the least competent to decide on questions of such momentous importance.

(d) Sri Lakshmi Priatheertha Swamigalu (of Kondapur mutt) nominated in the year 1900 one Parimalakrishnachar as his legally constituted successor by converting him into a Sanyasi and giving him the title of Anurudha Udayar Avl. Without submitting this nomination, as

he ought, to your Highness' Govornment for approval, caused the fact of Parimala Krishnachar having taken Asramam and entered ascetic life to be widely published to his numerous disciples scattered in the various parts of the Empire. The person thus nominated (for the Kundapur Mutt) Sri Anurudha Oodayar Avl. is now, as we understand, sojourning in the Northern parts (Hoobally & Darwar).

(c) Having by some means heard that Sri Lakshmi Priatheertha Swamigalu had it in contemplation to nominate some other person as his successor in which case he could not hope to secure the coveted place of the Head of the mutt, Sri Anurudha Oodayar Avl. sent registered notices to the Swamigalu as well as to the Muzrai Department stating that since he had been already nominated and since he had entered the ascetic life in consonance thereto, he only was entitled to succeed as the head of the mutt and assume charge of the Treasury and other properties of the mutt on the Swamigalu's demise in preference to any other person that might be nominated by the Swamigalu subsequent to his nomination.

(f) While so, in the year 1906 the Swamigalu did, as apprehended by Sri Anurudha Oodayar Avergal, nominate one of his disciples, who is a relation of his, named Karigiriachar and submitted the nomination for the approval of your Highness' Government, which, curiously enough, approved of the same and communicated its approval to the Swamigalu. It is not known what further confusion is in store for the mutt in consequence of such proceedings of the Muzrai Department, which a little care on the part of the Secretary and a reference to the previous correspondence on the subject might have averted.

XII. We beg, in conclusion, to bring prominently to your Highness' notice that in the midst of such confusion and mismanagement the present Head of the Sri Vyasaraja Swamiar Avergal mutt, His Holiness Sri Vidhya Ratnakaratheertha Sri Swamigalu is content with the periodical contributions made by your Highness'Government without devising and adopting remedial measures to protect the time-honored prestige and to-safeguard the interests of the mutt, while Sri Lakshmipriatheertha Swamigalu has settled at his own native place (Abbur or Kundapur in the Mysore Province) content with the few properties that fell into his hands by virtue of the High Court's decree above adverted lest in his attempt to get possession of others he should betray himself and lose the dignified position of the Head of a mutt. The Muzrai Department now presided over by Mr. L. Anantaswami Row

is culpably negligent and indifferent without in the least realising its responsibilities, grave as they are The Secretary seems satisfied with converting the Muzrai Department of your Highnesss' Government into an asylum for his kith and kin.

XIII. It therefore behoves your Highness to be graciously pleased to bestow your Highness' personal attention on the several matters discussed in the foregoing paragraphs without transferring them to the Muzrai Department for disposal and to decide the question finally and authoritatively and thus render universal satisfaction.

We beg to subscribe

Ourselves

Your Highness' most obedient servants,

M. V. Subbiramayya Garu

No. 299, Kotha Agraharam,

31-12-07

Samai Sastry Aiyar & Brothers

of P. S. Sundaram Company

West Tower Gate

Madura

P. S. Ranakrishna Aiyar.

Madura

Y. Lambamurti

Madura.

B. V. Venkiah

Venugopalakrishnaiah

Malkapuram

4/1/1909

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